

REMARKS

This application now contains claims 30 through 58. Claims 1 through 29 are canceled. Favorable consideration is respectfully urged.

Claims 1 - 29 of the present application were originally prepared in German and then translated into English. Applicants have herein canceled claims 1 through 29, and added claims 30 through 58, which are structured in accordance with U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendment adding claims 30 through 58, is neither narrowing nor made for substantial reasons related to patentability as defined by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the addition of claims 30 through 58 does not create prosecution history estoppel and, as such, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all of the elements of claims 30 through 58.

Respectfully submitted,

March 4, 2002

Date

Charles N.J. Ruggiero

Charles N.J. Ruggiero, Esq.

Reg. No. 28,468

Attorney for the Applicants

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

Tel: 203-327-4500

Fax: 203-327-6401